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Information Bulletin on

THE ILLINOIS PROGRAM FOR THE ISSUANCE OF HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY CERTIFICATES

ILLINOIS DOCUMENTS



Issued By

**OFFICE OF THE
SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
RAY PAGE, Superintendent**



LEGAL BASIS

Sections 2-3.34 and 3-15.12 of The School Code of Illinois, as approved July 25, 1961, and amended on June 25, 1965 and July 12, 1965, authorized the Program for the issuance of High School Equivalency Certificates. Illinois Law authorizes the Superintendent of Public Instruction to make rules necessary to carry into efficient and uniform effect the provisions for the issuance of High School Equivalency Certificates in the State. The law requires the County Superintendent to administer the High School Equivalency Testing Program. Recognized Illinois high schools are not authorized to issue a high school GED Credential.

PURPOSE

There are many educationally mature adults who, for one reason or another, withdrew from school or who were denied the opportunity to complete formal high school graduation requirements and, therefore, are unable to establish satisfactorily their educational status. For employment or further educational purposes, some method of determining educational attainment other than formal unit-by-unit completion of high school requirements is desirable. The Program provides adults with an opportunity to secure an evaluation of their educational maturity and competence, which should prove of value in meeting high school graduation requirements for employment, entry into training, promotion in industry, admission to college, or for personal satisfaction.

PHILOSOPHY

It should be clearly understood that the GED Tests can, in no way, take the place of a regular high school education. The tests are not a means to education, but are designed to appraise the educational development of adults who have not completed their formal high school education. Consistent with the soundest educational philosophy of today, the best way for the vast majority of people to acquire a high school education is to continue their formal education by regular attendance in school until they have met the educational requirements for graduation.

There are many out-of-school youths and adults who have earned a substantial number of high school credits in residence. High schools are urged to continue to offer high school credit courses in the adult evening school, and to grant credit for accredited high school correspondence courses. Such students should systematically pursue credit courses in order to overcome any deficiencies and ultimately receive a high school diploma which is universally recognized.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

A. AGE AND RESIDENCE

The State regulations, as recommended by the State Advisory Committee and promulgated by the Superintendent of Public Instruction of the State of Illinois are as follows:

All adults of Illinois are eligible to apply for the Illinois High School Equivalency Certificate provided:

1. they are at least 21 years of age.
(See exceptions on Page 3, Paragraph 3)
2. they have maintained residence in the State of Illinois for at least one year immediately preceding application.

B. TEST REQUIREMENTS:

1. GED Tests—satisfactory completion of the secure High School Level Tests of General Educational Development, administered in official Illinois GED Agencies, official GED Agencies in other states, United States Armed Forces Institute and Veterans' Administration Hospitals.

The following minimum scores on the GED Tests will be accepted as meeting the requirements for the Illinois High School Equivalency Certificate:

An applicant shall make, on each of the five Tests, a standard score of thirty-five (35) or above AND a total of the standard scores of at least 225 on the entire battery (average score of 45 on all Tests).

2. CONSTITUTION EXAMINATION—satisfactory examination upon American patriotism and the principles of Representative Government as enunciated in the American Declaration of Independence, the Constitution of the United States of America, the Constitution of the State of Illinois and the proper use and display of the American Flag, as provided by Section 27-3 of The School Code.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

1. Applicants over 21 years of age, must apply in person to the County Superintendent of Schools of the county of residence, completing application, Form GED 10. Only approved examinees may take the GED tests.
2. Servicemen and veterans, over 21 years of age, who have previously passed the GED Tests through the United States Armed Forces Institute, Official GED Agencies in other States, or Veterans' Administration Hospitals, should file the application, Form GED 10A, accompanied by the Official GED Test Report, with the County Superintendent of Schools of the County in which the applicant has maintained residence.
3. Illinois Servicemen and veterans, inmates of the Illinois Penitentiary System, and wards of the Youth Commission, if over the age of 17 years, may qualify for the Illinois High School Equivalency Certificate, IF THEY HAVE PASSED THE TESTS IN AN ILLINOIS GED AGENCY UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS.
4. Applicants who are not eligible to apply for the Certificate may be authorized to take the examinations upon written request of a college or Armed Forces recruiter, who will evaluate the Tests for their own purposes. The Constitution Examination will not be required of examinees who are tested for purposes other than the issuance of a High School Equivalency Certificate.

EXAMINATIONS

All candidates are required to take the five Tests at the time and place designated by the County Superintendent. Each Test takes approximately two hours to complete and it will require two days for an examinee to complete the battery. Not more than three Tests may be completed in one day. The five Tests are: (1) English Expression; Test (2), Social Studies; Test (3), Natural Sciences; Test (4), Literary Materials; Test (5), General Mathematics.

The Tests are designed to provide a measure of the extent to which the examinee has attained educational maturity comparable to that of the average high school graduate. Since the five Tests are comprehensive in nature, no specific preparatory measures are recommended. The examinee may be encouraged to review English composition through study of a suitable handbook; advanced arithmetic, elementary algebra, and geometric concepts (not geometric proofs) through study of appropriate texts; and social studies, natural science, and literature by reading general books in these areas. Preparation for the Constitution Examination may be based on reading the Declaration of Independence, the United States and Illinois Constitutions, study of civics texts, and perusal of leaflets or posters on Flag etiquette. Public librarians should be of assistance with reference to such study.

FEE

1. \$5.00 for permission to take the GED Tests in Illinois Official Testing Agencies (must be submitted with application).
2. \$5.00 for the issuance of the High School Equivalency Certificate upon request of the County Superintendent.

The Constitution Examination will be administered at the time of GED Testing. Qualified Illinois adults who apply for the High School Equivalency Certificate and who have passed the GED Tests may take the Constitution Examination at an official Testing Agency or the County Superintendent's Office. If the applicant cannot appear in person, i.e., serviceman, he must advise the County Superintendent of the name and address of his Commanding Officer, Education Advisor, or school Principal who will agree to administer the Constitution Examination under secure conditions and return to the County Superintendent for his evaluation. No fee shall be charged for the Constitution Examination.

RE-EXAMINATION

An applicant who fails to make the required scores on the GED Tests may ask to be retested on the entire battery or the Test failed. A year waiting period is required before re-examination unless the applicant presents to the County Superintendent evidence of having completed a formal program of studies related to the Tests to be retaken. A request to the County Superintendent for a re-examination accompanied by official evidence of such instruction is sufficient. Applicants must pay the \$5.00 fee for such retests. An applicant who fails the Constitution Examination will be permitted to review the subject and subsequently be retested. If he fails the retest he must wait one year for re-examination unless he presents evidence of completion of formal instruction to the County Superintendent.

ISSUANCE OF THE HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY CERTIFICATE

An applicant who has achieved the minimum standards as established by the Superintendent of Public Instruction, shall be notified in writing by the County Superintendent and upon the payment of \$5.00 by the applicant the County Superintendent shall issue the High School Equivalency Certificate. For further Information Contact:

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS-URBANA



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The Local County Superintendent of Schools
in Your County Seat . . . or
RAY PAGE, Superintendent of Public Instruction
Attention: SUPERVISOR, HIGH SCHOOL
Equivalency Testing Program
302 State Office Building, Springfield, Illinois 62706